DIALOG 11 OCTOBER 2003

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File 15:ABI/Inform(R) 1971-2003/Oct 11 (c) 2003 ProQuest Info&Learning
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File 99:Wilson Appl. Sci & Tech Abs 1983-2003/Sep (c) 2003 The HW Wilson Co.
File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB 1976-2003/Oct 10 (c)2003 The Gale Group
File 160:Gale Group PROMT(R) 1972-1989 (c) 1999 The Gale Group
File 233:Internet & Personal Comp. Abs. 1981-2003/Jul (c) 2003, EBSCO Pub.
File 256:SoftBase:Reviews,Companies&Prods. 82-2003/Sep (c)2003 Info.Sources Inc
File 275:Gale Group Computer DB(TM) 1983-2003/Oct 10 (c) 2003 The Gale Group
File 347:JAPIO Oct 1976-2003/Jun(Updated 031006) (c) 2003 JPO & JAPIO
File 348:EUROPEAN PATENTS 1978-2003/Oct W01 (c) 2003 European Patent Office
File 349:PCT FULLTEXT 1979-2002/UB=20031009,UT=20031002 (c) 2003 WIPO/Univentio
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File 636:Gale Group Newsletter DB(TM) 1987-2003/Oct 10 (c) 2003 The Gale Group
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File 6:NTIS 1964-2003/Oct W2 (c) 2003 NTIS, Intl Cpyrght All Rights Res
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File 8:Ei Compendex(R) 1970-2003/Sep W4 (c) 2003 Elsevier Eng. Info. Inc.
File 34:SciSearch(R) Cited Ref Sci 1990-2003/Oct W1 (c) 2003 Inst for Sci Info
File 94:JICST-EPlus 1985-2003/Oct W1 (c)2003 Japan Science and Tech Corp(JST)
File 434:SciSearch(R) Cited Ref Sci 1974-1989/Dec (c) 1998 Inst for Sci Info

Set	Items	Description
S1	376698	(MANAG?????? OR TRACK???? OR MONITOR????) (5N) (SHIP OR SHIPPING OR SHIPMENT OR PACKAGE OR PARCEL OR BOX OR MAIL OR LETTER OR MAIL OR MAILPIECE)
S2	65563	S1 (5N) (COMMUNICAT???? OR LINE OR LINK OR CHANNEL OR LAN OR WAN OR INTERNET OR WEB OR WWW OR NET OR NETWORK)
S3	805918	(COST???? OR PRIC???? OR FEE???? OR RAT???? OR BILL???? OR CHARG???? OR AMOUNT OR VALUE) (5N) (SHIP OR SHIPPING OR SHIPMENT OR PACKAGE OR PARCEL OR BOX OR MAIL OR LETTER OR MAIL OR MAILPIECE)
S4	53236	S3 (5N) (COMMUNICAT???? OR LINE OR LINK OR CHANNEL OR LAN OR WAN OR INTERNET OR WEB OR WWW OR NET OR NETWORK)
S5	3049	S2 AND S4
S6	805918	S3 (10N) S3
S7	2085247	3 (5N) (LOW OR LOWER OR LOWEST OR LEAST OR COMPAR????? OR MINIMUM OR MIN OR SMALL???? OR SHOP?????)
S8	3049	S5 AND (S6 OR S7)
S9	53600	S3 (5N) (LOW OR LOWEST OR LOWEST OR LEAST OR COMPAR????? OR MINIMUM OR MIN OR SMALL???? OR SHOP?????)
S10	306	S5 AND S9
S11	191	RD S10 (unique items) [Scanned ti,kwic all]

11/9/77 (Item 7 from file: 148)
DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB (c)2003 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

09980351 SUPPLIER NUMBER: 20053706 (THIS IS THE FULL TEXT)

Closing the gaps: new enhancements to Internet technology bring parcel shippers closer to customers.(includes related articles on shippers and Web sites)

Schwartz, Beth M.

Transportation & Distribution, v38, n11, p68(3)
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ABSTRACT: New software programs and hardware packages are extending the usefulness of the Internet for parcel shippers and their customers. Shippers can link their docks to carriers' databases, e-mail pre-advise notification documents and use 'address book' features that allow quick printing of labels and air waybills. Hardware packages offer security options for conducting business on the Internet, and increase storage memory for customer data.

TEXT:

Networking used to mean making business connections over cocktails. Clinking glasses and a nip of whiskey were virtual tools of the trade. Today, "networking" more likely refers to computer lines than lines at the bar. Strong business relationships are constructed and maintained over electronic wires. There are VANs (value-added networks), intranets, extranets and, of course, the Internet. Whether you're zipping along the left-hand lane or thumbing down the shoulder of "information superhighway," businesses are moving towards electronic network technology.

Recently, computer networks have garnered their fair share of attention within the parcel shipping industry. The buzz-word is "integration." It illustrates a growing need for communication links beyond the construct of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). Parcel carriers and third party providers both are positioning themselves to take advantage of evolving networking technologies. The Internet is playing a key role. Recent announcements by both groups have focused on enhancements to Web platforms.

Granted, the Internet has its limitations. Connections can be slow; the amount and type of accessible data is limited; telephone lines can get interrupted; etc.

Regardless of its shortcomings, Internet technology illustrates an effort to expand the reach of EDI networks by opening internal information to all participants of the supply chain. Mark Rhoney, vice president of strategic marketing with United Parcel Service (UPS), underlines this point: "The Internet is, in my mind, a living example of the next generation of network technology and software. Whether or not the software of the future lives on the Internet isn't as important as the network technology it demonstrates."

Making the most of that technology requires an understanding of its benefits and limitations. The Internet can be a viable tool. But it is currently incapable of standing on its own. Using Internet applications in alliance with software and/or EDI can effectively expand the breadth of business relationships for parcel shippers.

Software versus the Internet

A few years ago, parcel carriers put PCs on the loading docks of their major shippers and handed out software programs by the fistful. Some of these PCs are stand-alone platforms (i.e. lacking connections to a network); some are hooked into the carrier's database. Both allow shippers access to shipping information. "Carrier-provided software is generally all the same," according to Bram Johnson, Director of Marketing with RPS. The software generates cost evaluations, prepares essential forms, and can create package bar codes. Johnson continues, "You can move big hunks of data around. (If on-line with the carrier,) you can trace by date, and if it turns out there are a thousand packages in shipment, you can download and manipulate that information."

"You can't do that on the Internet. I think our goal is for that piece of RPS supplied software to disappear. But the Net isn't there yet." To satisfy the needs of shippers using large amounts of data, software continues to be the key.

Carrier-supported software provides additional benefits for shippers. "It has no maintenance or upkeep costs for the customer," says UPS's Rhoney. "That's no-cost for the first installation or for improvements in functionality. This is of fundamental significance when it comes to international shipping because those programs are being continually updated." In other words, software is cheap, it's low-maintenance, and it works.

It's also limited in scope. A change of perspective regarding information sharing is running through the parcel shipping community. More and more, that perspective focuses on consignee needs. Johnson explains, "I really think the revolution will be to the consignee. Currently, the shipper knows everything--when they shipped it, what's in the box, who it's going to, and whether it shipped on time. It's getting the information from the shipper to the consignee and adding on carrier information that's increasingly important." If not connected to a VAN, consignees must go through customer service reps and reams of paper to obtain shipment information, often a frustrating and time-consuming process.

The Internet is a working solution to getting that information to consignees. "To get to the consignees, we've put information similar to what is found in our software out on the Web," says Alan Boehme, director of business planning with DHL Worldwide Express. "The Internet allows us to have more integration capabilities with our customers. We just have to be smart about how we take advantage of it."

The Net is a relatively cost effective means of hooking into a network system. Once you've invested in the hardware and gotten yourself an ISP (Internet Service Provider), relatively little else needs to be done. There's no tedious interfacing of incompatible systems. In addition to providing benefits to consignees, **smaller parcel** shippers can reap the **cost** benefits of utilizing **Internet** information bases, as well. NASSTRAC (National Small Shipments Traffic Council) intends to promote Internet use within the small shipping community during its annual education seminar. President Stu Slifkin advocates the Net as the potential enabler for smaller shippers: "Properly used, the **Internet** can reduce **costs** for all sides of the **shipping** community."

Despite its drawbacks, it is a working tool. It can be used with proficiency or inaccuracy.

Tellingly, Internet applications are growing and improving at a head-spinning pace. To reap the most benefits with the fewest frustrations, **Internet** applications should be limited. **Tracking** one **shipment** at a time, or obtaining a few documents is a practical application. Downloading a glut of data is not. Following are some recent enhancements to Internet platforms which can improve the way parcel shippers do business.

Carrier supported web sites: a network of change

* DHL's Electronic Shipment Advisory is designed for use with DHL's EasyShip software package. EasyShip software allows shippers to electronically prepare the shipment form. Electronic Shipment Advisory, which is supported by AT&T's communication network, then sends the document via e-mail to the customer receiving shipment as a pre-advise notification.

A unique attribute of the e-mail document provides a direct link to DHL's tracking page on their web-site using the shipment air waybill number. The customer receives the electronic notice and can immediately click onto DHL's site and locate their package. For foreign shipments, the new service can translate an English message into the language of many destination countries. URL: www.dhl.com

* FedEx's interNetship has several new components. The site supports an "address book" capability which allows shippers to store information for 75 frequent customers to speed up printing of shipping labels and air waybills. Shippers can e-mail recipients through FedEx's network, transferring package information to customers. And the site now provides shipping options for the company's range of delivery programs, e.g. FedEx Priority Overnight, FedEx International Priority, FedEx Standard Overnight, etc. URL: www.fedex.com

* UPS recently announced a partnership with IBM and Lotus to incorporate electronic commerce formats within the UPS web site. Though the new package will initially support only UPS shipping and tracking components, UPS intends to incorporate their whole suite of offerings in the near future. URL: www.ups.com

* RPS has a couple of unique components on their web site. One is called "SPIF-Net:" Supplemental Package Information-Net. It assists small shippers by allowing the creation and transmission of a document formatted within EDI standards. "If a consignee demands the purchase order number in some kind of an EDI transmission, small shippers can now satisfy them," says Johnson. To assist consignees with liability issues, RPS also includes a digital image of the person's signature who signed for the package. URL: www.rps.com

Third-party solutions

Third party providers as well have caught onto the expanding emphasis on networks. Though carriers may currently provide the lion's share of Internet and software solutions for the parcel shipper, third party systems are a viable alternative for parcel shipping companies with high transportation costs. Again, strong networks reaching to the consignee are key, something which was not necessarily generated by EDI. "Transportation systems are typically closed," according to Michael Bireley with Cass Logistics. "Within them, information is only available to the logistics and transportation groups. For the transportation and parcel industries to take their next leap forward into a commodity-marketplace arena, those systems need to open up."

To pry open these systems, third parties are moving into Internet capabilities focusing on consignee needs. For those companies with high transportation costs who are prepared to invest in a viable, robust system, here are two worth investigating:

* Cass Logistics Software has partnered with IBM to provide a software/hardware solution

designed to help small and medium- sized-businesses maximize their transportation pricing systems via the Internet. Cass's software program is called TMS-Net and is designed to run on IBM's newly released AS/400e series.

"TMS-Net allows users to profile transportation cost at any point along the Supply Chain Management profile" says Bireley, "from order entry through distribution through reconciliation of transportation cost." The software handles any pricing thrown at it. To meet the needs of international consignees, the software deals in just about any type of currency. It can convert currencies and allows the user to choose a currency based on current exchange rates.

IBM's AS/400e series maximizes the software's potential. AS/400e is a newly released hardware package designed for Internet applications. It includes extensive security options along with increased storage and memory space designed specifically to take advantage of conducting business over the Net. Cass Logistics is so excited with this new IBM series, they have no plans to commit the TMS-Net software to any other platform. Bireley says, "This is the most progressive platform IBM has today. They have nothing even close to this Internet line that addresses client-server requirements."

* Varsity Logistics has designed a complete software package for shippers demanding a comprehensive supply chain management tool. Varsity's software goes beyond the shippers' dock to link with major carriers' databases in an EDI environment. Varsity's track record is a plus: they were the first company approved and certified for hookup into carriers' databases. The Varsity system can accommodate a variety of needs from preparing and sending an ASN, to generating carrier-specific bar code labels, to communicating shipment status information across international boundaries in one of five languages.

The scope of the software is expanding. "Previously, we focused a lot more on carrier requirements," says Carol Lee, President of Varsity. "Now we're getting into consignee requirements." To better meet those requirements, Varsity will move their program onto an Internet platform.

This fervor for Internet capabilities doesn't render EDI obsolete. Putting transportation pricing and routing information out on the Web illustrates the changing nature of parcel shipping. Customer service equals competitiveness. "This is the point of competition," says DHL's Boehme. "The Internet allow us to have a lot more integration capabilities with our customers, much more so than our software-only provided by a transportation company." Make strong business connections over networks, then toast your savvy with a nice glass of whiskey.

RELATED ARTICLE: Fast facts about parcel carrier's web sites:

* FedEx's home page averages 1.4 million hits per month; over 500,000 customers use Internet shipping tools

* The UPS website currently averages 2 million hits per day

* DHL anticipates delivering between 30,000 and 40,000 pre-advise messages daily using their Electronic Shipment Advisory

The UPS strike posed a challenge to smaller parcel shipping companies to pick up the slack. Transportation software played a big role in determining success levels. Force Transportation of Pasadena, TX reaped the benefits of a solid information system. Force operates 40 vehicles under 50 employees. Using a system designed by ANSCAR out of Glendale, CA, Force successfully met the demands of an instantaneous 25% increase in service loads. Co-owner Randall Force says, "Without our computerized dispatching system I probably would have had to

turn down 50% of the UPS overload." For information on ANSCAR, circle 250

For more information on these products and services, circle the appropriate numbers on the Reader Services Card in this issue.

DHL Electronic Shipment Advisory: circle 243
FedEx interNetship: circle 244
UPS electronic commerce: circle 245
RPS SPIF-Net: circle 246
Cass Logistics TMS-Net: circle 247
IBM AS/400e series: circle 248
Varsity Logistics software: circle 249
ANSCAR transportation resources: circle 250
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11/TI,PD,KWIC/136 (Item 10 from file: 349)
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ELECTRONIC MARKET AND RELATED METHODS SUITABLE FOR TRANSPORTATION AND SHIPPING SERVICES

CYBERMARCHE ET TECHNIQUES EN RAPPORT POUR SERVICES DE TRANSPORT ET D'EXPEDITION

Patent and Priority Information (Country, Number, Date):

Patent: WO 200219220 A2 20020307 (WO 0219220)

Fulltext Availability:

Detailed Description

Detailed Description

... 2 customer retains the other part of the form. The parcel barcode on the parcel is then optically scanned at each stage of delivery to **track** the progress for the **parcel** electronically. The barcode scanner **communicates** with a host computer to transmit the parcel ID to a host computer. The parcel ID and the location information of the barcode scanner are...

...status of a freight movement. Additionally, it has become increasingly more popular for independent shipping fleets and common carriers in the freight industry to supply **Internet web** sites that include published **rate** information for .specific services (**shipping** types, lanes, etc.) offered by that carrier. The shipping customer (i.e., the entity desiring to ship given cargo by one or more offered services) may then navigate to the carrier's
web site at his or her convenience using a conventional **web** browser and obtain useful **shipping** and **rate** information.

While this approach is advantageous in that it provides customers with readily accessible rate and service information around the clock, there is the inherent...

...web sites (or by calling those carriers who do not publish service and rate information) and manually compare the obtained rate information.

Moreover, many carrier **web** sites do not provide current **rate** information to **shipping** customers without the customer first identifying itself (perhaps in a secure manner) to the carrier. Further, even if customers do spend the time searching across...designated preferred catalog customers or, more preferably, multiple levels of preferred catalog customers. Thus, in this manner, loyal repeat customers could be quoted lower catalog **rates** on one or more **shipping** services offered as **compared** to the catalog rates quoted to less frequent repeat customers (who in turn could optionally be quoted a lower rate than the average customer).

Auctions...such that discounted rates can be provided to certain designated preferred catalog customers. Thus, in this manner, loyal repeat customers could be quoted lower catalog

rates on one or more **shipping** services offered as **compared** to the catalog rates quoted to less frequent repeat customers. Similarly, in this manner sellers can provide special contract rates to the exchange network for...

...disks, and remote hard drives. This system is utilized by the exchange 22 network 101 to store all shipping transaction data handled by the exchange **network** 101, such as catalog type **rate** tables for various **shipping** services offered by carrier users, auction bids, and pending electronic tender offers sent to carriers (as described below). Additionally, the- database system 107 is adapted...one skilled in the art, preferably, multiple levels of preferred catalog customers can be employed such that loyal repeat customers could be quoted lower catalog **rates** on one or more **shipping** services offered as **compared** to the catalog rates quoted to less frequent repeat customers (who in turn could optionally be quoted a lower rate than the average customer).

Although...dollars per mile factor, a minimum rate, and/or a flat rate.

LTL rates are specified by carriers for each class in terms of a **minimum rate** and weight breaks. **Package rates** are specified for a carrier's weight breaks and charges for transportation within a particular zone. (The zones being defined by a particular carrier). Rail ...the present invention, the electronic market and related methods not only allows buyers and sellers to conduct auctions and to publish, search and review catalog **shipping rates** in a distributed **network** environment, but also enables the automatic 49 tendering of shipment requests (after the closing of auctions or after quoting of catalog rates) to carriers and...

11/TI,PD,KWIC/140 (Item 14 from file: 349)
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APPARATUS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ONLINE, MULTI-PARCEL, MULTI-CARRIER, MULTI-SERVICE PARCEL RETURNS SHIPPING MANAGEMENT

DISPOSITIF, SYSTEMES ET PROCEDES DESTINES A LA GESTION EN LIGNE MULTI-COLIS, MULTI-TRANSPORTEUR ET MULTI-SERVICE POUR L'EXPEDITION DE MARCHANDISES EN RETOUR

Patent and Priority Information (Country, Number, Date):
Patent: WO 200172109 A2 20011004 (WO 0172109)

Fulltext Availability:
Detailed Description
Claims

Detailed Description
... as it appears in the Patent and Trademark Office patent file or records, but otherwise reserves all copyright rights whatsoever.

-II"iShip.com.", "iShip", "The **Internet Package** Shipper", "**Price** If', "Sell If', "**Track** If', "**Ship** It", "**Shipping** Tools", "My iShip" and associated logos are trademarks of Stamps.com, Inc. The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks... 20c, in order to pay for return shipping, the Return System prompts the Consumer to specify Return Shipping Preferences 366, prepares and displays a Graphic **Comparison** of the **costs** of **shipping** the item with a plurality of Carriers and Services 367, and prompts the Consumer to select and pay for shipping the package according to the...user's client PC, issues a rating request, the System passes a list of carrier identifiers for the carriers enabled for that user to the **Rating**.DLL operating on the **shipping Web** server to which the **rating** request is directed.

The Rating.DLL consists of various rating-related functions, one of which is referred to as 1 1 "Get-Rate-Function". Get...return package, the Consumer can track the shipment through the Merchant's online store. FIG. 40 depicts an Items Ordered Screen. By clicking on the **Track** your **package link** 405, the Consumer can **track** the **package** associated with the described item. FIG. 41 is a graphic representation of a Tracking Information Screen depicting status information about the tracked package.

FIGS. 42-45 depict an alternative Consumer Tracking embodiment in which clicking the **Track** your **package link** 405 as depicted in FIG. 42 generates a Track Your Package screen as depicted in FIG. 43. The Track Your Package Screen provides a window...number error. If the Carrier tracking number is a valid number, the Server will not attempt to match the number to a manifested 1 3 **package**; the Server will **track** the **package** using the particular Carrier's **Internet** tracking routine; and will return the tracking response to the Web Client of the requesting User.

1 5 In an alternative embodiment, if the tracking...

...the package on the same day it is shipped.

In this alternative embodiment, once the Server has identified the Carrier tracking number, the Server will **track** the **package** using the Carrier's **Internet tracking** routine. If the tracking response from the Carrier's Internet tracking routing indicates an error, the Server will make another attempt to **track** the **package** through the Carrier's **Internet tracking** routine. If the second tracking 3 1 request results in an error, the Server will notify the Web Client of the requesting User that the...the basic tracking information provided by the particular Carrier's Internet tracking function. In one embodiment of the invention, when the user provides a Carrier **tracking** number to **track** a **package** , the User's **Web** Client requires the User to identify the Carrier. If the User provides a System tracking number, then if the User is logged on to the...

Claim
... services.

12 The online merchandise return computer system of Claim 1 1, the computer system further programmed to: generate a display of an interactive graphic **comparison** of **shipping rates** for the return 3 1 request for shipping the particular package for each of the selected services offered by each of the selected carriers.

13 The online merchandise return computer system of Claim 12 wherein the interactive graphic **shipping rate comparison** display comprising an array.

14 The online merchandise return computer system of Claim 13 wherein said array comprising a plurality of cells.

15 The online...by a consumer to return at least one item of merchandise; generate in response to said merchandise return request a display of an interactive graphic **comparison** of **shipping rates** for the return request for **shipping** a package containing an item of merchandise to be returned, said display showing a shipping rate for each of a set of services offered by...for each of the selected services.

50 The method of Claim 49, the method further comprising: 3 1 generating a display of an interactive graphic **comparison** of **shipping rates** for the return request for **shipping** the particular package for each of the selected services offered by each of the selected carriers.

51 The inethod of Claim 50 wherein the interactive graphic **shipping rate comparison** display comprising an array.

52 The method of Claim 51 wherein said array comprising a plurality of cells.

53 The method of Claim 52 wherein...
...by a consumer to return at least one item of merchandise; generating in response to said

merchandise return request a display of an interactive graphic **comparison** of **shipping rates** for the retuin request for **shipping** a package containing an item of merchandise to be returned, said display showing a shipping rate for each of a set of services offered by...selected services.

9 88. The computer product of Claim 87, the computer product having further instructions for: generating a display of an interactive graphic **comparison** of **shipping rates** for the return request for **shipping** the particular package for each of the selected services offered by each of the selected carriers.

89 The computer product of Claim 88 wherein the interactive graphic **shipping rate comparison** display comprising an array.

90 The computer product of Claim 89 wherein said array comprising a plurality of cells.

91 The computer product of Claim...

...consumer to return at least one item of merchandise; 2 1 generating in response to said merchandise return request a display of an interactive graphic **comparison** of **shipping rates** for the return request for **shipping** a package containing an item of merchandise to be returned, said display showing a shipping rate for each of a set of services offered by...The computer system of Claim 125, the computer system further comprising: 1 8 a set of instructions for generating a display of an interactive graphic **comparison** of 1 9 **shipping rates** for the return request for **shipping** the particular package for each of the selected services offered by each of the selected carriers. 2 1
127. The computer system of Claim 126 wherein the interactive graphic **shipping rate comparison** display comprising an array. 128. The computer system of Claim 127 wherein said array comprising a plurality of cells. 28 129. The computer ...least one item of merchandise; 9 a set of instructions for generating in response to said merchandise return request a display of an interactive graphic **comparison** of **shipping rates** for the return request for **shipping** a package 1 containing an item of merchandise to be returned, said display showing a shipping rate for each of a set of services offered...

11/TI,PD,KWIC/142 (Item 16 from file: 349)
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SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SHIPPING, ACCOUNTING, AND TRACKING COMMON CARRIER SHIPMENTS

SYSTEME ET PROCEDE PERMETTANT L'EXPEDITION, LA COMPTABILISATION ET LE SUIVI DE CHARGEMENTS DE TRANSPORTEURS COMMUNS

Patent and Priority Information (Country, Number, Date):

Patent: WO 200165444 A1 20010907 (WO 0165444)

Fulltext Availability:

Detailed Description

Detailed Description

... not only the respective tracking numbers, but also the respective common carriers employed to ship the respective parcels. Moreover, in order for a shipper to **compare** the **cost** of **shipping** a **parcel** using various common carriers, the shipper must first inquire from each common carrier individually, and then compare costs.

SLJMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention...a step 204. In an embodiment, the list of common carriers for shipping is compiled after receiving at least the inforination required for determining a **shipping rate** of at **least** one common carrier. In a specific embodiment, the list of common carriers for shipping is compiled after receiving the origination ZIP code, the destination ZIP...

...list of common carriers may include shipping rates for each listed service offered by each listed common carrier, in order to assist the shipper in **comparing costs** of the common carriers. The **shipping rates** may include a **fee** assessed by the **shipping** service company.

In one embodiment, the server system 102 may obtain common carriers and respective shipping costs from the database system 105. The shipping costs...

...parcel weights, parcel dimensions, classes of service, and according to origination and destination locations. In another embodiment, if a common carrier provides access to its **shipping** services and **costs** over the **Internet**, the server system 102 may obtain the common carrier shipping costs from that common carrier by querying, via the Internet, a server system operated by...web page including the list of common carriers and transfers the common carrier selection web page to the shipper computer 108. The common carrier selection **web** page preferably includes **shipping costs** for each common carrier in order to facilitate a cost comparison of the various common carriers. Additionally, the common carrier selection **web** page may include multiple **shipping** services, and their associated **costs**, for one or more of the common carriers.

In the specific embodiment, a shipper, using the shipper computer 108, then selects one of the common...

...the server system 102 in any number of ways.

For example, the server system 102 may select a common carrier and associated service with a **lowest shipping cost**. Also, the server system 102 may select a common carrier based upon a preferred common carrier of the shipper, and select a service based upon...a common carrier tracking number in any number of ways known to those skilled in the art. For example, if the chosen common carrier offers **internet** -arranged **shipping**, the agent may obtain a **tracking** number from a common carri er server system 120 using the agent computer I IO connected with the internet 106. Additionally, the agent may obtain...

11/9/189 (Item 1 from file: 813)
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1442842 LATU049
WorldWide Merchant Announces InterShipper 4.0 'The Internet Shipping Center'

DATE: March 23, 1999 11:42 EST WORD COUNT: 436

TEMPE, Ariz. March 23 /PRNewswire/ -- WorldWide Merchant(TM) today announced the new version 4.0 of its InterShipper(TM) service on the World Wide Web (see www.intershipper.net). This latest version improves on InterShipper's previous rate comparison tool by adding advanced features, making InterShipper(TM) a complete "**Internet Shipping** Center." New features included automated **tracking** , drop-off facility locator, interactive **shipping** logs, contact **management** and more.

In addition to providing, new features, InterShipper(TM) has improved its famous rate calculator by adding more optional parameters and communicating directly with each carrier. By doing this, InterShipper(TM) has become the most accurate **shipping-cost comparison** service on the **web**.

"With these exciting new features and our pledge to continue to improve the usefulness of InterShipper, we see "The Internet Shipping Center" concept becoming one of the best practical applications of the Internet," said Gene Saadi, President of WorldWide Merchant(TM).

Internet users can try InterShipper(TM) version 4.0 for free at www.intershipper.net.

Using the service gives shippers the ability to manage all their shipments from a single location and optimize their daily shipping routine:

-- InterShipper(TM) remembers addresses for easy repeat shipments.

-- InterShipper(TM) tracks shipments automatically and notifies shippers via e-mail when shipments are delivered or if shipments are delayed.

-- InterShipper(TM) maintains a shipping log and shows current shipment status if available.

-- InterShipper(TM) can schedule a pickup online or will display the closest drop-off location.

-- InterShipper(TM) can schedule future shipments.

InterShipper(TM) can be used three different ways:

1) Use InterShipper(TM) on the web at www.intershipper.net.

2) Setup an online store with WorldWide Merchant (see www.worldwidemerchant.com) and get InterShipper(TM) technology built in!

3) Use our programmer's interface or ActiveX DLL to integrate InterShipper(TM) technology into other applications or web sites.

A fourth way to use InterShipper(TM), scheduled for June 1, 1999, will allow users of Microsoft Site Server Commerce Edition to use InterShipper(TM) technology in their e-commerce applications with little or no coding. The Site Server Plug-In is offered as part of WorldWide Merchant's commitment as a Microsoft Independent Software Vendor (ISV) in support of Microsoft's Commerce Strategy.

Yahoo! Internet Life Magazine selected InterShipper(TM) as one of the "50 Most Useful

Sites" on the Internet in its June, 1998 issue. One month later (August, 1998), PCWorld Magazine featured InterShipper(TM) in its article "Make the Web do the Work". InterShipper(TM) has also worked a co-branding relationship with Business Week Online.

InterShipper(TM) is provided by WorldWide Merchant(TM) -- a wholly owned subsidiary of BITS, Inc. (Business Information Technology Solutions), of Tempe, Arizona.

SOURCE WorldWide Merchant

CONTACT: MEDIA: Gene Saadi, Principle of WorldWide Merchant, 602-968-6114, gsaadi worldwidemerchant.com

Web site: http://www.intershipper.net

Web site: http://www.worldwidemerchant.com

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TanData(TM) Corporation Announces Progistics CS(TM), Their Newest, **Internet**-Enabled **Shipping** and **Rating** Software

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TULSA, Okla. July 21 /PRNewswire/ -- TanData announces the release of Progistics CS. Their latest suite of **shipping** and **rating** software is **Internet**-enabled and allows administrators to configure and deploy **shipping** and **rating** information through a **web** browser. TanData's patented RateServer(TM) client/server technology returns to-the-penny shipping charges based on a company's negotiated carrier rates, allowing businesses to retain substantial savings. By rate shopping carriers such as UPS, FedEx, RPS, DHL, Airborne, Emery, Burlington, Regional Carriers, LTL's, and the United States Postal Service, companies ensure that they are always receiving the best rates for the service level required, while increasing their negotiating power with the carriers.

"Every successful business in the marketplace either has or is developing an Internet strategy, and TanData is proud to offer the shipping and rating solution that makes their client/server fulfillment pipeline complete," said A.R. Tandy, chairman and CEO of TanData Corporation. "We've leveraged the latest technology to transform the shipping process from a 'warehouse only' function to a procedure that can be executed from any desk top with a web browser. Traditional and e-commerce vendors alike will be able to administer their own business rules and rate multiple carriers from one source. Ironically, the merchants who are not even using our software best illustrate the advantages of our system. The only thing I can say when someone complains about the $8 shipping charge for their $3 purchase is that their vendor has not realized how critical accurate shipping charges are to a customer. But they're learning quickly."

Progistics.Merchant(TM) lets E-commerce Vendors Extend **Shipment** Rating and **Tracking** Accuracy to their On-**line** Stores

Progistics.Merchant is the e-commerce component of the new CS logistics suite. Applying the concept of rate shopping to Internet commerce means that an on-line store can retrieve rating, tracking, and routing information and still apply whatever business rules the e-commerce merchant desires for submitting order information over the web. Progistics.Merchant uses ODBC compliant connections that make it ideal for interfacing with Oracle's newest database product Oracle8, as well as other popular databases, such as SQL Server. With interfaces written for Oracle's Internet Commerce Server and other major e-commerce software packages, TanData will use the Summer Internet World (July 23-25 in Chicago) venue to demonstrate how flexible and effective Progistics.Merchant can be. Using a web browser on a computer in Chicago, a connection will be made with a web server running at the Oracle headquarters in Northern California. Using an Oracle web server application cartridge written by TanData, the web server will make a connection to TanData RateServers running on machines in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The resulting rates, picked by the shopper in the form of "fastest" or "least expensive" options, will return to the browser in Chicago. The true value of the software is that the on-line merchant can retain or give

as much shipping control as they desire. In short, they can take advantage of the software's rating ability to increase their margins, or they can pass the savings on to the customer in the form of more competitive total delivered cost to the customer.

Progistics.Shipper allows Businesses to Rate Multiple Carriers and Ship Packages

Progistics.Shipper(TM) is the other major component of TanData's latest software. Using the Progistics "Transportation API(TM)" (rating, shipping, manifesting, document generation etc.), Progistics.Shipper employs a company's individual business rules to ship packages. The RateServers associated with the Progistics software suite surpass other shipping systems by using the latest three-tier client/server technology to incorporate the concept of **rate shopping** in the heaviest of **shipping** pipelines, while adhering to internal business rules. Its ability to talk to standard devices, such as barcode scanners, scales, printers etc., while also interfacing with accounting and warehouse software packages, makes Progistics.Shipper one of the most effective and cost-saving technologies in the warehouse or mailroom. For example, the TanData software can evaluate the best shipping charges, post the information to an accounting system, decrement inventory from the warehouse system, print a label, and ship the package in one step. Progistics.Shipper can also be used in conjunction with Progistics.Merchant to streamline the entire on-line order and fulfillment process. The Progistics emphasis on web-enabled technology ensures its use and availability well into the next decade.

Located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 18 year old TanData Corporation has been the pioneer in shipping and rating solutions and has clients ranging from small businesses to major multi-national corporations. TanData recently received the Network Cartridge Engineering Award from Oracle Corporation for their development of the Progistics.Merchant Cartridge. The company is making Progistics.Merchant available now on their web site at www.tandata.com and plans a platform preview of the entire Progistics CS suite in mid-September.

SOURCE TanData Corporation

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